



BOROUGH OF WATFORD

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# Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and

SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year

1949

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R. C. M. PEARSON

M.D., M.R.C.P. (Ed.), D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health

R. V. JACOB

M.S.I.A. (CERT. SAN. INST.)

Senior Sanitary Inspector



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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Members of the Health Committee,  
1948-9

Chairman:  
Vice-Chairman:  
His Worship the Mayor:  
The Deputy Mayor:

Councillor L. C. Johnson  
Councillor J. Davis  
Alderman H. Coates  
Councillor R. W. North

Alderman Mrs. L. E. Armitage  
Alderman H. J. Bridger  
Alderman Mrs. M. A. Ward  
Alderman J. Wright  
Councillor A. Abbott  
Councillor Mrs. M. E. Bridger

Councillor Mrs. E. Brooks  
Councillor J. K. Carpenter  
Councillor R. N. E. Hinton  
Councillor H. Horwood  
Councillor C. W. Tyrwhitt  
Councillor F. H. Vince

STAFF OF THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health, Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital  
and Divisional Medical Officer for South-West Hertfordshire:-

R. C. M. Pearson, M. D., Ch.B., M.R.C.P.(Ed)., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

+ø R. V. Jacob, M.S.I.A.

Deputy Senior Sanitary Inspector:-

ESxs=ø K. H. Marsden, M.S.I.A., A.R.San.I., A.M.I.S.E.

District Sanitary Inspectors:-

xs=ø G. F. Willcox, M.S.I.A.

s=ø E. Ellerington, M.S.I.A.

Ss=ø J. L. Willoughby, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

s=ø T. B. Rosamond, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Inspector under Shops Act:-

A. Corke

Clerical Staff:-

= R. A. Smith  
Miss M. Sherlock  
Miss M. Johnson

= Part-time Officer.

+ Sanitary Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

= Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute and Sanitary Inspectors' Examination Joint Board.

ø Meat Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

s Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute in Sanitary Science as applied to Buildings and Public Works.

x Diploma of Sanitary Inspectors' Examination in Sanitary Science and Administration.

S Smoke Inspectors' Certificate of Royal Sanitary Institute.

E Associate Membership Examination, Institute of Sanitary Engineers.

BOROUGH OF WATFORD

Health Department,

Town Hall,

WATFORD.

July. 1950.

TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my seventh Annual Report and the twenty-eighth of its kind for the Borough. My Interim Report in March drew your attention to the most important items of interest in 1949 and it only remains to fill in a few details for record purposes and make a small number of corrections after receiving the Registrar General's return for the year.

As I indicated last year this report deals only with environmental health although comments where applicable are still called for on the Personal Health Services. Watford Borough is no longer an area on its own for these services but merged into the South West Hertfordshire Division, sharing its efforts and its worries with those of the surrounding areas including the new estate at Oxhey. But more will be said of this later.

Once again it is a pleasure to record quite a formidable list of "successes" mostly due to improvements which have been taking place over a number of years but which could not be maintained without ceaseless vigilance on the part of all concerned. On the purely statistical side the lowest infant mortality rate (18.5 per 1000 births) and the first time below 20 known to me for a town of this size, is something of which the Borough Maternity & Child Welfare Service can justly say that the foundations were well and truly laid. Again there were no maternal deaths for the second year in succession and not even a case of diphtheria for the past three years. Likewise there was no case of cerebrospinal meningitis. On the not quite so creditable side the Borough suffered its highest incidence of poliomyelitis - the figures for the past three years being 14, 4 and 25 confirmed cases. The confirmed notifications do not indicate the real incidence since there must have been many mild and abortive cases which never came to the knowledge of the Department. A very thorough system of contact tracing and the very able manner in which the District Sanitary Inspectors went about their difficult task did bring to light quite a number of doubtful cases thus ensuring that suitable precautions were taken.

In many ways the General Public is beginning to get some insight into the real work carried out by its Health Department and it is hoped that through education of this nature the demand will come for still greater hygiene in all walks of life. This is particularly true where the Sanitary Inspector is concerned - he no longer relies entirely on the backing he can obtain from various Acts and Regulations but on sound advice given in the co-operative spirit to all those who seek to improve their working conditions in the premises where food is prepared, etc. To make certain that

food reaches the consumer free from infecting organisms every detail in transit from the grower must be investigated and perfected. The sooner the demand is national the sooner will the standards rise in all catering establishments, shops, etc.

My thanks are due to all the Staff of the Department but particularly to those on whom the brunt of special investigations fell for the conscientious manner in which all their duties were carried out and the ready response which was always forthcoming when the need arose, such as during the period of preparation for the Food Hygiene Exhibition.

As in past years so once again it has been a great encouragement to the Staff of the Department to know that the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee are just as anxious that Health in all its aspects should be maintained and improved wherever possible.

I have the honour to be  
Your obedient Servant,

R. C. M. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.



SECTION "A"

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	5,275
Estimated civilian population to mid-year 1949				73,220
Number of inhabited houses (estimated)	...			20,197
Rateable value at 1. 4. 49.	...	...		£663,051
Sum represented by a penny rate		...		£2,600

Number of Live Births -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	517	502	1,019
Illegitimate	<u>29</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>62</u>
Total	<u>546</u>	<u>535</u>	<u>1,081</u>

Number of Still Births -

Legitimate	13	11	24
Illegitimate	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total	<u>13</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>24</u>

Total number of Births (Live and Still)	...	...	1,105
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Total number of Deaths	...	...	792
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Deaths from -

Puerperal Sepsis...	...	)	
Other Puerperal Causes	...	)	
All Puerperal Causes	...	)	
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers		)	
Measles	...	)	-
Scarlet Fever	...	)	
Whooping Cough	...	)	
Diphtheria	...	)	
Cerebrospinal Fever	...	)	
Influenza	...	...	13
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...		1
Violence	...	...	19
Cancer	...	...	151

Infantile Deaths (under 1 year) -

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	8	12	20
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>20</u>
	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>	<u>=</u>

Birth Rate and Death Rate, 1949.

	<u>Watford</u>	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>London Admin- istrative County</u>	<u>126 County Boroughs and Great Towns</u>
Birth Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
Live Births	14.7	16.7	18.5	18.7
Still Births	0.33	0.39	0.37	0.47
Death Rate (per 1,000 population) -				
All causes	10.8	11.7	12.2	12.5
Measles	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.0	0.01	0.01	0.02
Diphtheria	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Influenza	0.18	0.15	0.11	0.15
Typhoid etc.	0.0	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years) (per 1,000 live births)	0.92	3.0	1.7	3.8
Maternal Mortality Rate - (per 1,000 total births)				
Puerperal Sepsis	0.0	0.22		
Other puerperal causes	0.0	0.76		
All puerperal causes	0.0	0.98		



## Infant Mortality Rate -

All infants, per 1,000 live births ...	18.5
Legitimate infants, per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	18.5
Illegitimate infants, per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil

### COMPARATIVE RATES

	<u>Watford</u> <u>1948</u>	<u>Watford</u> <u>1949</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1948</u>	<u>England and</u> <u>Wales, 1949</u>
Birth Rate (live births)	15.7	14.7	17.9	16.7
Death Rate	10.3	10.8	10.8	11.7
Infant Mortality Rate	24.2	18.5	34.0	32.0
Maternal Mortality Rate	0.00	0.00	1.02	0.98

### Comments -

#### (1) Infectious Diseases.

Some of the details of the poliomyelitis epidemic will be given later but it may be recorded that most of the cases were either - very severe with imminent danger to life or mild with often rapid and complete recovery - only a few could be put into the intermediate category. All deaths took place after involvement of the vital centres in the bulbar region.

There were no cases of either diphtheria or cerebrospinal meningitis. Whooping cough notifications fell and no deaths occurred but measles ran out as an epidemic year for the third time in succession - a most unusual feature.

#### (2) Violence.

Five persons lost their lives in street accidents in Watford (3 last year). There were 5 fatal home accidents compared with 11 last year.

#### (3) Birth Rate.

A further fall from 15.7 to 14.7 has taken place so that the birth rate which will keep the population at the same level from one generation to another must have been reached if not already passed during the steady fall since 1947. Such a fact cannot be assessed accurately for one locality because it obviously takes no account of changing local population but it is a serious national matter although the rate is still just above unity.

#### (4) Still Birth Rate.

The fall again revealed indicates the lowest loss of infant life yet recorded when added to the small number of neo natal deaths.

#### (5) Deaths in Infancy.

The rate of 18.5 is a very large improvement compared with recent years since even a small fall at this low rate indicates quite a big advance.

The following causes of death amongst infants under 1 year old during the last 5 years is interesting:-

			<u>1945</u>	<u>1946</u>	<u>1947</u>	<u>1948</u>	<u>1949</u>
Prematurity	...	...	12	11	15	5	3
Malformation	...	...	5	4	5	2	1
Birth injuries	...	...	3	2	-	3	3
Collapse of lung	...	...	2	7	3	4	3
Respiratory diseases	...	...	7	2	8	1	3
Other diseases of infancy...			4	3	6	4	5
Infectious diseases	...	...	-	-	-	4	2
Accidents	...	...	-	-	2	2	-
Not traced	...	...	-	-	2	3	-
Total	...		<u>33</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>28</u>	<u>20</u>

The deaths from infectious diseases - in this case two due to tuberculous meningitis - are no doubt within the sphere of prevention particularly, since if infected but diagnosed early, treatment by means of streptomycin has good results. Better still known susceptible contacts may be given B.C.G. vaccine.

Better diagnosis is not the sole reason for the fall due to prematurity but in no small measure it is the care given to such immature children and the stress laid on bringing all available health services into line for such cases which has such successful results.

Of the 20 infant deaths occurring in 1949, 5 died within 24 hours, a further 6 less than a week old and another 3 whilst still under one month old, leaving only 6 during the next eleven months.

The neo natal death rate was, therefore, 12.9 compared with 17.4 in 1947.

For the first time for many years a death due to enteritis has to be recorded - the child was born in the Maternity Home, transferred to the General Hospital but failed to thrive and died one month later.

#### (6) Death Rate.

The rate of 10.8 is about the usual level. No maternal deaths occurred.

#### (7) Sex of Infants.

The sex ratio dropped from 1,120 to 1,034 boys to every 1,000 girl infants thus compensating for the unusual number of boys in 1948.

#### (8) Illegitimate Births (per 1,000 total births).

	<u>England and Wales</u>	<u>Watford</u>
1939	42	50
1944	68	72
1945	94	95
1946	67	66
1947	52	58
1948	51	52
1949	50	56

## SECTION "B"

### PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

#### GENERAL

To say that all the difficulties resulting from the National Health Service Act have been overcome would be wrong because there are signs that it is still difficult for the General Public to understand some of the changes which are the result of splitting up of the Maternity and Tuberculosis Services. There is also the additional load being carried by the hospitals and in particular their X-ray departments. It is hoped that the shortage of beds for particular sections, such as gynaecology, tonsillectomy and tuberculosis will be overcome when true integration of hospitals takes place thus permitting the solution of both medical and nursing staffing difficulties.

The considerable increase in population just over the southern boundary using the Borough amenities, including shops, cafés, cinemas, etc., and since it includes families rehoused on medical and overcrowding grounds merits a careful study of the situation. This is being done but it should be realised that the sections of the Health Services centred in Watford but serving South-West Hertfordshire are bound to feel the extra load, particularly institutional midwifery and hospital services.

#### (a) Clinic Services.

No change took place in Infant Welfare, Ante Natal and other Local Health Authority Clinics, but towards the end of the year it was noted that the Scabies Clinic attendances were falling.

The Chest Clinic which was moved from 65, Queens Road to Shrodells Hospital has been very much expanded and additional sessions undertaken. With the greater use of such drugs as Streptomycin and P.A.S. in domiciliary treatment and the use of ambulances for bringing patients up for X-ray checking, etc., there has been less strain on hospital beds and treatment has been started shortly after diagnosis in suitable cases.

#### (b) Laboratory Facilities.

No change.

#### (c) Health Education.

Whilst reference will be made in the Senior Sanitary Inspector's report to the Food Hygiene Exhibition it must be emphasised that this was not just a stunt but part of a planned campaign to improve all types of food establishments in the Borough by gaining the goodwill and co-operation of the Trade. The success of such a policy can be seen in the steady improvement in the ice cream grading figures.

Every opportunity has been taken of speaking to interested groups on all manner of subjects realising that enlightened public opinion is the surest way to progress in all matters of Health in its widest sense.



(d) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Section 47. Several cases were investigated but no action beyond persuasion and the provision of suitable services under the National Health Services Act was required.

Section 50. Arrangements were made on seven occasions (six in 1948) under this section.

(e) Swimming Baths.

A careful check of the water, not only its chlorine but bacterial content, has been kept and found to be entirely satisfactory on all occasions.

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SECTIONS "C", "D", AND "E".

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA, ETC.

Water.

Mr. L. C. Kimberlin, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer & Manager has kindly supplied the following information:-

(i) The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality throughout the year 1949. I think it noteworthy that in spite of the prolonged drought it was not found necessary to impose restrictions on the use of water as was the case with many water undertakings.

(ii) Bacteriological examinations were made regularly as follows:-

1. Watford Fields Supply:

Raw Water.	Monthly.
Treated Water.	Weekly.
High Level Reservoir )	Monthly, staggered
Low Level Reservoir )	fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests were taken hourly on the water leaving the pumping station and of the supply from the High Level Reservoir and at four-hourly intervals of the supply from the Low Level Reservoir.

2. The Grove Supply:

Raw Water.	Quarterly.
Treated Water. )	Monthly, staggered
Reservoir. )	fortnightly.

Chlorine residual tests were taken hourly of the water leaving the pumping station.

With the exception of the sample referred to in (iv) and very occasional slight abnormality of a non-faecal type in the treated water at Watford Fields, which was eliminated by the superchlorination treatment, all the analyses showed a high standard of purity.

Bacterial analyses of samples taken at quarterly intervals from the area of the Borough that is served by the Colne Valley Water Company have also proved entirely satisfactory.

Chemical analysis of the raw water at Watford Fields showed it to be hard in character but of the highest standard of organic purity.

(iii) There is no plumbo solvency.

(iv) In July, B. Coli contamination was found in samples from the Low Level Reservoir. This reservoir, which is 80 years old, and of obsolete design was put out of service and emptied. The accumulation of chalk sludge was removed, inefficient old pattern entrance covers were replaced with new covers with seal and lock, old brick ventilation shafts were sealed off and modern cast iron ventilators fitted in the roof. After thoroughly sterilising the floor and walls, the reservoir was refilled and put back into service after satisfactory analyses had been received from the Analyst. All subsequent analyses have been satisfactory and a chlorine residual test of the supply from this reservoir has been taken three times daily as a check.

(v) A careful survey of the water supply to the few permanent dwellings which still have no mains supply and those temporary dwellings now used by "squatters" revealed the following position:-

(a) Temporary dwellings at:-

Langley Road Camp	Nine families. Each family have a separate tap. (Population 32)
Langley Way Camp	Some huts are sub-divided and 3 families occupy parts of huts without an inside tap to themselves. These are No. 3 (part) and both parts of No. 7. Each family has a separate standpipe, however. (Population 12)
108 Leavesden High Road	Four caravan dwellers use standpipe in yard. (Population 4).

(b) Permanent Dwellings at:-

Puxley House, North Orbital Road	Premises supplied by outside standpipe only. Plumbing installed but not connected to service.
Leavesden High Road 112-118 (even Nos.)	One standpipe for four dwellings. (Population 12).
Leavesden High Road 120-124B (5 houses)	One standpipe for five dwellings. (Population 10).
Munden Drive Cottage	Standpipe outside. (Population 3).
Forge Cottages, Leavesden Nos. 4, 5 & 6	Three dwellings have outside taps. (Population 7).
Ganders Ash, Leavesden Nos. 4, 5, 6 & 7	One standpipe for four dwellings. (Population 8).

## Sanitary Inspection

The following table is a record of the visits and inspections made by the Sanitary Inspectors during the year 1949.

<u>Houses -</u>			
Public Health	...	...	295
Housing Act	...	...	200
Overcrowding	...	...	129
<u>Factories</u>	...	...	187
<u>Rats and Mice Infestation -</u>			
Premises inspected	...	...	82
Sewer Baiting	...	...	12
Other visits	...	...	19
<u>General -</u>			
Refuse accommodation...	...	...	296
Tents, vans and sheds	...	...	27
Keeping of animals	...	...	58
Theatres, cinemas, etc.	...	...	17
Public houses	...	...	14
Smoke observations	...	...	227
Vacant land and dumps	...	...	134
Verminous premises - initial inspections	...	...	34
Drainage inspections and tests	...	...	258
Cesspools	...	...	7
Infectious diseases	...	...	160
Fly prevention	...	...	24
Other insect pests	...	...	86
Petroleum Acts	...	...	68
Paddling pool	...	...	11
Filthy premises and persons	...	...	2
Interviews with Owners	...	...	387
Miscellaneous visits...	...	...	609
<u>Revisits to Premises under Notice -</u>			
Public Health Act - Houses	...	...	473
Public Health Act - Others	...	...	146
Housing Act	...	...	622
Other revisits	...	...	49
<u>Meat and Foods -</u>			
Slaughterhouses	...	...	2,284
Visits re food inspection	...	...	527
Butchers shops	...	...	65
Fishmongers and poulterers	...	...	27
Greengrocers and fruiterers	...	...	10
Grocers and other food shops	...	...	24
Fried fish shops	...	...	47
Dairies, milk shops and cowsheds	...	...	41
Ice cream premises	...	...	276
Restaurants and dining rooms	...	...	241
Preserved food rooms...	...	...	57
Milk Samples (Designated)	...	...	20
Ice cream samples	...	...	75
Food (adulteration) samples	...	...	122
Food (bacteriological) samples	...	...	19
Suspected food poisoning	...	...	15
Public Market	...	...	208
Bakehouses	...	...	76
Other food premises	...	...	11
Lectures to food handlers	...	...	14
Food Protection Exhibition	...	...	193
			<u>8,985</u>
Number of complaints received and investigated			1,077



Nuisances Abated and Defects Remedied.

Houses -

Roofs repaired or renewed	...	104
Walls repointed, rendered or repaired		57
Dangerous walls rebuilt	...	2
Wallplaster repaired	...	124
Floors repaired or renewed	...	53
Ceilings repaired or renewed	...	56
Windows repaired or renewed	...	217
Fireplaces repaired or renewed	...	54
Cooking ranges repaired or renewed		5
Coppers provided or repaired	...	14
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed		38
Sinks provided or renewed	...	17
Interior water supplies provided...		1
Repairs to water supplies	...	5
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed		80
Eaves guttering repaired or renewed		93
Food stores provided or repaired...		7
Stairs repaired or renewed	...	4
Doors repaired or renewed	...	61
Coalhouses provided or repaired	...	4
Chimneys and stacks repaired	...	33
Yards, etc. paved or repaired	...	8
Damp-proof courses provided	...	57
Rooms cleansed and redecorated	...	42
Additional lighting provided	...	2
Additional ventilation provided	...	9

Drainage -

Drains or sewers cleared of obstructions		54
Drains or sewers repaired or reconstructed		34
Cesspools repaired or renewed	...	1
Inspection chambers provided	...	3
Soil pipes, vent shafts, etc. repaired or renewed		10

Water Closets -

New w.c.'s provided	...	8
W.C. compartments repaired	...	46
W.C.'s cleansed	...	10
W.C. pedestals renewed	...	44
W.C. cisterns repaired or renewed		40
Flushpipes repaired or renewed	...	20

Dustbins -

New provided	...	127
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Miscellaneous -

Offensive accumulations removed	...	6
Animals - nuisances abated	...	2
Verminous rooms disinfested	...	22
Dirty premises cleansed	...	1

Contraventions remedied in -

Bakehouses	...	1
Preserved food rooms	...	2
Factories	...	16
Shops	...	3

1,597

Administration - Notices.

	Served	Complied with	Outstanding at 31st December, 1949
Public Health Act, 1936:			
Informal	198	193	95
Statutory	24	29	6
Housing Act, 1936:			
Informal	99	125	75
Statutory	12	13	15
Factories Act, 1937:			
Informal	4	10	26
Food & Drugs Act, 1938	29	25	24
	366	395	241

Housing.

Throughout the year, the Sanitary Inspectors have continued their efforts to maintain in a habitable condition the outworn houses within the Borough. Serious disrepair has developed in many cottage properties during the last ten years, and the increased cost of repairs allied with the comparatively low controlled rents of these premises is providing the Council with the difficult problem of assessing the reasonableness of the costs when extensive repairs are necessary. It is most unlikely that any of these cottages will provide satisfactory housing accommodation for thirty more years, and the provisions of Part II of the Housing Act, 1949 (relating to the giving of financial assistance towards the improvement of existing housing accommodation) are not, therefore, applicable.

This is not only a local problem, it is a National one, and it demands firm action by the Government in the near future. The requirements of the Sanitary Inspectors, of necessity, have been restricted to minimum essential repairs of public health importance, and the number of notices served during the year is set out in the above table. It will be seen that in only 36 cases was it necessary for the Council to serve statutory notices, under the Public Health and Housing Acts, requiring the execution of repairs, and it is gratifying to record that on two occasions only was it necessary to enforce these notices by executing the works in default of the owners.

Three cottages which were unfit for human habitation were demolished during the year:-

1. Sparrow Pot Lodge and Sparrow Pot Cottage were demolished in March, 1949.
2. Primrose Cottage, Radlett Road which was demolished on the 16th July, 1949.

(Demolition proceedings in respect of Primrose Cottage were started as long ago as the 8th November, 1946).

### New Houses.

The Borough Engineer has kindly supplied the under-mentioned information regarding new houses erected during 1949.

(a)	By Local Authority	-	262
	War damage rebuilding	-	-
(b)	By private individuals	-	62
	War damage rebuilding	-	-

The Borough Treasurer has kindly supplied the following information:-

1.	Number of Council houses occupied on 31st December, 1949	...	...	2,558
2.	Number of requisitioned premises (including huts) occupied on 31st December, 1949...			140
3.	Number of families housed in requisitioned premises on 31st December, 1949		...	271

### Smoke Abatement.

Close observation has been maintained on the factory chimneys within the Borough. Excessive smoke emission from nine chimneys has been recorded during the year and on each occasion investigations have been made into the boiler-house practice, the design of the boilers, fuel, etc., with a view to abating the nuisance. The sanitary inspectors have advised the factory managers concerned of the remedial action which should be taken. Smoke eliminator doors, designed at the Fuel Research Station, have been fitted to the boilers at two factories within the Borough with satisfactory results, and a grit arrester has been fitted to the boiler of another factory.

### Electricity Generating Station.

On two occasions during the year the emission of grit and sulphurous fumes from the Electricity Generating Station has caused a serious nuisance, but residents in the vicinity of this station have been troubled by a light deposit of grit on several other occasions. To mitigate this nuisance the Eastern Electricity Board has, inter alia, reconstructed the chimneys, fitted new grit arresters to two boilers and reconditioned other grit arresters at this station. It is hoped that these improvements, in conjunction with an improved fuel supply, will prevent a recurrence of the nuisance.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

During 1949, the following meat and other foods were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

<u>HOME KILLED MEAT AND OFFAL.</u>		lbs.
Beef (including 103 carcasses)	...	75,363
Pork (including 20 carcasses)	...	3,524
Lamb (including 1 carcass)	...	79
Veal (including 30 carcasses)	...	1,406
Mutton (including 11 carcasses)	...	694
- 15 -		carried forward: 81,066

			lbs.
	brought forward		81,066
<u>Offal from Bovines -</u>			
883 heads	...	...	26,108
801 tongues	...	...	4,003
1,881 sets lungs	...	...	18,791
319 hearts	...	...	1,560
1,484 livers and 1,201 part livers			30,286
169 spleens	...	...	303
274 skirts	...	...	528
206 tripes and 142 manifolds	...	...	11,354
525 udders	...	...	8,692
191 sets of intestines	...	...	5,932
102 tails	...	...	201
389 mesenteries	...	...	6,333
104 sets of feet	...	...	2,798
Blood	...	...	4,783
<u>Offal from Pigs -</u>			
84 plucks	...	...	678
29 livers	...	...	141
226 sets lungs	...	...	790
69 heads and tongues...	...	...	1,621
138 other organs	...	...	676
<u>Offal from Sheep and Lambs -</u>			
66 plucks	...	...	275
524 livers	...	...	1,086
154 lungs	...	...	278
47 other organs	...	...	180
2 heads and tongues	...	...	9
<u>Offal from Calves -</u>			
30 heads	...	...	170
35 plucks	...	...	152
65 other organs	...	...	352
2 livers	...	...	3
<u>IMPORTED MEAT</u>			
Beef	...	...	1,370
Mutton	...	...	1,192
<u>OTHER FOODS</u>			
Bacon	...	...	137
Wet fish	...	...	1,518
Cured fish	...	...	634
Shellfish	...	...	50
197 cans corned beef...	...	...	846
774 cans fruit	...	...	1,461
184 cans fruit and tomato juices	...	...	223
3,902 cans milk	...	...	3,851
989 cans various meats	...	...	1,438
2,197 cans vegetables	...	...	2,722
461 cans fish	...	...	418
175 cans soups	...	...	154
200 cans jam and marmalade	...	...	308
530 jars meat and fish pastes	...	...	111
637 cans cereals	...	...	331
31 cans sausages	...	...	33
Brawn	...	...	58
105 cans sardines	...	...	25
10 cans tomatoes	...	...	19
Sausages and sausage meat	...	...	116
	carried forward		226,164



		lbs.
	Brought forward	226,164
Cheese ...	...	188
Poultry ...	...	100
Sweets and chocolates	...	32
Fruit ...	...	1,780
209 boxes Camembert cheese	...	63
5 cans syrup...	...	10
981 jars pickles and sauces	...	773
35 cans fruit pudding	...	40
Melba sauce ...	...	18
Butter and other fats	...	93
Cereals and flour	...	1,324
Cooked meat ...	...	41
Vegetables ...	...	240
Sugar and sugar confectionery	...	167
Ice cream ...	...	116
689 shell eggs and dried eggs	...	87
Dried fruit ...	...	128
720 cans mustard	...	45
Meat pies and pork pies	...	154
Milk powder ...	...	266
640 packets assorted seasonings	...	100
Coffee ...	...	81
Dried peas ...	...	54
Potato flour...	...	15
13 cans milk and fruit pudding	...	13
1,586 jars salad cream	...	459
269 packets soup powders	...	28
Miscellaneous	...	103
	Total	<u>232,682</u>

Total weight of meat and other foods condemned during the year 1949 - 103 tons, 17 cwts. 2 qtrs. 2 lbs.

Of the above unsound foods 90% comprised diseased meat and offal condemned at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouses within the Borough.

The following table indicates the extent of tuberculosis and other diseases found on post-mortem examination of the animals killed in the Government Slaughterhouses during the year 1949.

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed and inspected ...	4,354	1,701	4,210	14,501	1,323
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	8	6	23	12	16
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1,842	632	12	644	257
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ...	42.4	37.5	0.8	4.5	20.6
<u>Tuberculosis Only:</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned ...	20	69	7	-	4
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	416	587	1	-	63
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ...	10.0	38.6	0.2	-	5.1

For comparison purposes, the percentages of the animals found to be diseased during the post-war years are set out in the following table:-

		Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis:						
1945	...	21.87	28.88	0.98	3.06	3.87
1946	...	29.4	25.9	0.5	7.1	10.9
1947	...	38.6	35.8	0.8	8.7	16.8
1948	...	39.3	37.0	0.9	5.2	27.9
1949	...	42.4	37.5	0.8	4.5	20.6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis:						
1945	...	12.65	43.48	0.18	-	4.54
1946	...	13.0	45.5	0.1	-	4.6
1947	...	12.3	48.7	0.07	-	3.1
1948	...	12.4	44.5	0.5	-	7.9
1949	...	10.0	38.6	0.2	-	5.1

It is regrettable that a high proportion of the bovines, found on post-mortem examination to be in an advanced stage of disease, have been accepted by the panels of graders at the collecting centres and have as a consequence been purchased by the Ministry of Food. If the disease had been detected in the live animal it would be a simple matter to arrange for the animal to be slaughtered apart from healthy animals. At the same time it would lead to a considerable saving of the taxpayers' money.

The high percentage of cattle infected by tuberculosis, particularly cows, continues to cause the Borough Council serious concern. The necessity of instituting even more effective control measures on the farms has been discussed with the Hertfordshire Agricultural Executive Committee, the outcome of which was a decision by the Committee to extend its advisory work as far as possible. A report of the discussion has been sent to the Chief Live-stock Husbandry Advisory Officer of the Ministry of Agriculture.

#### Cysticercus Bovis.

The incidence of *Cysticercus bovis* in the cattle slaughtered in Watford has shown a disturbing increase throughout the year. The incidence recorded during the last quarter of 1948 was 0.8% and during 1949 the incidence rose as follows:-

<u>Number of cases</u>			
First Quarter	...	7	1.1% )
Second Quarter	...	39	2.9% )
Third Quarter	...	104	5.0% )
Fourth Quarter	...	105	5.2% )
		<u>255</u>	Average 4.2%



Complete records for the whole country for 1949 are not available but the Ministry of Food have kindly furnished the following figures for the three months August, September and October, 1949:-

1949	England & Wales		Scotland	
	Number of cases	Percentage of total kill infected	Number of cases	Percentage of total kill infected
August	903	0.61	224	0.65
September	1,142	0.54	169	0.47
October	869	0.54	157	0.55

The high incidence of the disease discovered in Watford appears to be exceptional, but as so many factors are involved it would be premature to conclude that there is a rapidly increasing infection generally throughout our cattle. Nevertheless, the large number of animals infected with a disease communicable to man is a matter of some concern.

With the co-operation of other local authorities, field research work has been conducted during the year in an endeavour to trace the source of infection of every case of *Cysticercus bovis* discovered in Watford. Also, close contact has been established with the Ministries of Food and Health.

#### Ice Cream.

##### Purity.

Sixteen premises within the Borough are registered for the manufacture of ice cream, but in nine of these the manufacture of ice cream was discontinued during the year and will not be resumed until the occupiers can comply fully with the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations. The remaining seven manufacturers, both small and large scale, have completely re-equipped their factories since the end of the War, and they have spared themselves neither labour nor expense in their efforts to improve hygiene in their factories. Throughout the year the sanitary inspectors have been diligent to safeguard the purity of this important foodstuff and it is gratifying to report that they have received the full co-operation of the Trade.

Seventy samples of ice cream from twelve manufacturers were submitted for bacteriological examination; 70% of these were satisfactory compared with 63% during 1948.

The hygienic aspects of the sale of ice cream from shops, stalls, vans and barrows have also received careful attention. Thirteen provision merchants who are selling frozen pre-packed foods have been registered during the year for the sale of wrapped ice cream; altogether 85 premises within the Borough are registered for the sale of ice cream.

##### Composition.

Nineteen samples of ice cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical examination; the reports are summarised in the following table:-

Sample Number	Fat Content	Total solids including fat
1	4.10%	27.70%
2	5.60%	31.80%
3	4.80%	33.40%
4	4.50%	29.60%
5	11.20%	32.80%
6	7.20%	32.40%
7	8.90%	32.80%
8	6.00%	26.40%
9	12.40%	33.90%
10	2.00%	22.40%
11	9.60%	32.60%
12	7.60%	32.50%
13	11.20%	31.60%
14	6.50%	30.30%
15	6.70%	30.60%
16	7.50%	31.80%
17	13.58%	34.08%
18	10.90%	32.70%
19	11.80%	33.46%

The fat contents of samples Nos. 1 to 4 appeared to be low; a further four samples, Nos. 5 to 8 were therefore submitted to the Analyst along with the manufacturer's recipes and these were found to correspond. The average composition of the ice creams show that the produce of 1949 was richer than that of 1948.

#### Food Hygiene.

The clean food campaign initiated in 1946 was carried a stage further during 1949.

When the campaign was first started the sanitary inspectors had to concentrate their efforts on material defects, in order to rectify the disrepair of premises and inadequacies of equipment which had accrued during the War years in most of the food preparing premises within the Borough. As this work proceeded it became manifest that widespread ignorance of the fundamental principles of food hygiene was a problem of major importance, and that a determined educational campaign was the only answer. The co-operation of the Central Council for Health Education was secured and, in March, 1948, Dr. Sutherland delivered the first lectures on food hygiene, in The Avenue Clinic. These were followed up by the sanitary inspectors who gave lectures to many food handling staffs in their places of employment. The Manager of every food shop and food factory also was supplied with leaflets, illustrated posters and detailed information on the causes of food poisoning, etc.

Early in 1949 the Council decided that the ultimate success of the food hygiene campaign was largely dependent upon an informed public opinion, and the outcome of this decision was a Food Protection Exhibition which was held in the Electricity Showrooms, Watford, during the week 2nd - 7th May. Progressive members of the food trade co-operated with the Health Department by providing many of the exhibits, displaying window bills proclaiming their support for the Council's Clean Food Campaign, and supporting by advertisements in local newspapers, the press publicity campaign. Three films on food hygiene were shown each afternoon in the demonstration room at Electricity House and a daylight projection van toured the factories showing the same

films. Several parties of school children were conducted round the Exhibition and thus received a very valuable lesson.

The Exhibition was a success; it achieved its object of enlivening the public interest, and it demonstrated to the food trade that to ignore food hygiene is bad business.

The sanitary inspectors have continued their lectures to food handlers and by periodic inspection of food premises, have secured the following improvements:-

Defects remedied	Registered Rooms	Other Rooms
Food premises entirely or partly reconstructed	-	7
Walls and ceilings repaired or renewed ....	6	6
Floors, doors and windows repaired or renewed	-	4
Sanitary conveniences disconnected	-	1
Ventilation improved ....	-	13
Lighting improved ....	1	1
Rooms cleansed and redecorated ....	3	43
Apparatus, fitments or utensils cleansed, repaired or renewed ....	5	9
Accumulations of refuse removed ....	-	3
New refuse accommodation provided ....	-	2
Sinks repaired or renewed....	-	9
Washing-basins, provided, repaired or renewed	1	4
Constant hot water provided ....	4	8
Soap and towels provided ....	1	1
Water supply provided ....	-	2
Open shop front closed ....	-	1
Additional drainage provided ....	-	2
Additional sinks provided....	-	9
	21	125
Total	146	

In October, 1949, the Ministry of Food issued Model Byelaws - Series 1, on The Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air. These were welcomed by the Council and adopted without amendment. A scheme for the application of these Byelaws to the various food trades has been considered and agreed by the Council.

#### Food Poisoning Outbreaks.

Eight outbreaks of food poisoning have been carefully investigated during 1949. Altogether 62 persons were involved in these outbreaks but fortunately the illnesses were generally of a mild nature and none resulted in death.

In six of the outbreaks it was impossible to obtain samples of the suspected foods and in five outbreaks bacteriological investigations failed to detect the responsible organism.

In one outbreak where one person was infected with *Salmonella typhi* murium, exhaustive investigations failed to detect the source of the infection and all the evidence indicated that the patient was a chronic carrier of the organism.



One outbreak involving five cases was successfully traced to the source and further outbreaks were thus prevented. The five infected persons had eaten cooked pressed tongue which investigations revealed to have been infected during its preparation in a factory. Staphylococcus aureus of the same phage type was isolated from the faeces of one of the cases, a specimen of the tongue and the hands of two of the food handlers.

During the course of our investigations into the eight outbreaks of food poisoning 64 specimens of faeces, 15 samples of suspected foods, 20 nose and throat swabs and 3 hand swabs have been submitted to the Bacteriologist for examination. The co-operation of the Public Health Laboratory Service has been invaluable.

A summary of the outbreaks is set out in the following table:

Total Number of Outbreaks	Number of cases	Number of deaths	Organisms or other agents responsible with number of outbreaks of each	Foods suspected with number of outbreaks of each
8	62	nil	Salmonella typhi-murium - 2 Staphylococcus aureus - 1 Causative organisms not identified - 5	Cooked Beef - 2 Meat pies - 2 Pressed tongues - 1 Southend cockles - 1 Unknown - 2

1. Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.
2. Milk (Special Designation)(Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.
3. Milk (Special Designation)(Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The Food and Drugs (Milk and Dairies) Act, 1944 came into operation on the 1st October, 1949. The principal changes effected are:-

1. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries becomes responsible for the registration of dairy farms and dairy farmers, and for enforcing the regulations on dairy farms.
2. A new special designation "Sterilised Milk" is provided.
3. After the 1st October, 1954, the special designation "Accredited" will no longer be permitted to be used.

A complete review has been made of the distribution of milk in Watford and the following registrations and licences have been granted by the Council under the provisions of the above regulations:-

1. Registrations -
 

(a) of Dairies	...	...	4
(b) of Distributors	...	...	23
2. Pasteurised

(a) Dealers Licence to pasteurise milk	1
(b) Dealers Licence (to sell pasteurised milk)	15
(c) Supplementary Licence	"do" ... 2

Sterilised

(a) Dealers Licence to sterilise milk ...	1
(b) Dealers Licence (to sell sterilised milk)	19
(c) Supplementary Licence -do- ...	2

3. Tuberculin Tested

(a) Dealers Licence (for sale of Tuberculin Tested Milk) ...	11
(b) Supplementary Licence -do- ...	1

Twenty samples of Designated milk were submitted for examination by the Bacteriologist who reported that all the samples were satisfactory.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

The Report of the Public Analyst on samples submitted for examination during the year 1949 is as follows:-

"The number of samples examined under the Food and Drugs Act during the period under review, amounted to 122, of which 44 were Formal and 78 Informal.

Of the Formal samples, 38 consisted of Milk and the following table shows their average composition as compared with those examined during the previous year -

		<u>Fat</u>	<u>Solids, not Fat</u>
1948	...	3.55%	8.83%
1949	...	3.56%	8.78%

It will be seen that the average Fat content for the two sets of samples is almost identical, but that the Solids, non-fat figure is slightly lower for the year 1949. Both figures, however, are well above the Statutory limit and may be regarded as quite satisfactory.

The Milks, generally, were of good quality and all of them complied with the Milk Regulations in respect of their composition. These Milk samples, moreover, conformed in all cases with the requirements of the Public Health (Preservatives, etc. in Food) Regulations in respect of their freedom from preservatives.

Your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, also submitted to me for examination during the year a selection of different types of Foods, Drugs, etc., the chief of which I will refer to under the following headings.

FOODS -

Raspberry, Strawberry & Apricot Jam  
Meat and Fish Paste  
Stearin  
Cake Mixture  
Coffee Essence  
Cocoa  
Jelly Crystals  
Custard Powder  
Vanilla Essence  
Baking Powder  
Self Raising Flour

FOODS -  
(Continued)

Chocolate Spread  
Pudding Mixture  
Sausage Meat  
Lemon Squash  
Whisky, etc.

CONDIMENTS -

Sage and Onion Stuffing  
Pickling Spice  
Frying Oil  
Sweet Pickles  
White Pepper  
Malt Vinegar  
Tomato Sauce  
Olive Oil  
Curry Powder  
Thyme  
Horseradish Cream  
Arrowroot, etc.

DRUGS -

Seidlitz Powder  
Glauber Salts  
Borax  
Glycerine Lemon & Honey Cough Mixture  
Tartaric Acid  
Saccharin Tablets  
Linseed, Licorice and Chlorodyne Tablets

The great majority of the Food Products and Condiments examined were found, generally, to be of good quality and in a sound, edible condition.

There were, however, a number of samples examined during the year which were found, on analysis, to show certain deficiencies and which, in consequence, failed to comply with the Statutory Rules and Orders dealing with these respective products.

I give below particulars of these samples.

Salad Cream.

Two samples of Salad Cream were examined during the year, both of which failed to comply with Statutory Rule and Orders, No. 1177, 1945 in respect of their Egg Yolk Solids content. Both these Salad Creams were of Dutch Origin and as you are aware, the Ministry of Food are advising Local Authorities not to take any action for the time being in respect of these imported Salad Creams, as there is some evidence that decomposition may have taken place during storage.

Sausages.

One sample of Sausages examined was found to contain only 12% of Meat, whereas the minimum laid down by the Meat Products and Canned Meat (Control and Maximum Prices) Order No. 1509, 1948, is 50%. Legal proceedings were instituted by your Council against the Vendor concerned, but I was subsequently informed that as the Ministry of Food also issued proceedings against the same Manufacturer for a similar offence, your Town Clerk withdrew his summons.

I further gather that the Vendor was convicted and that a fine of £55 was imposed, together with 7 guineas costs.



Another sample of Sausages showed, on analysis, a Meat content of only 35%, and proceedings were, accordingly, instituted against this particular Vendor. A certificate of analysis, however, was submitted by the Defendant Company, in which the Meat content of the Sausages was stated to be 50%.

I was informed that, in view of this, the Court instructed that the third portion should be sent to the Government Laboratory. The certificate subsequently issued by the Government Chemist indicated that, based on the analysis obtained, the Meat content of these Sausages was about 51%. A statement was added, however, to the effect that owing to some decomposition of the sample having taken place, it was not possible to say definitely whether the Sausages had been made in accordance with the Statutory Instrument No. 1509, 1948.

The composition of these Sausages, as shown by my analysis and that obtained by the Government Chemist, indicated that there was a considerable difference in the Fat content of our respective samples, and it was evident from this that the fatty portions of the Meat were unequally distributed between the two samples.

Your Council decided, therefore, to withdraw these particular proceedings.

#### Baking Powder.

One sample of Baking Powder failed to comply with the requirements of the Food Standards (Baking Powder and Golden Raising Powder) (No. 46) 1944, in respect of its Available Carbon Dioxide content, which was only 3% instead of the minimum limit of 8%.

The Manufacturers concerned were requested to look into this matter and no further action was taken.

#### Vinegar.

An informal sample was submitted labelled "Loose Malt Vinegar". The analysis showed it to contain only 2.85% of Acetic Acid, which is below the minimum strength required for Vinegar. It did not, moreover, possess the character of a Malt product.

In view of these results, I requested your Chief Inspector to take a formal sample. This was subsequently received and when analysed its acetic acid strength was 4.65%. The Salesman concerned informed your Inspector that the product in question was being sold as a non-brewed Vinegar, in which case the results for the Formal sample were satisfactory.

Your Chief Inspector also submitted to me during the year certain special samples to which I will now refer.

#### Meat Soup.

I was informed that a large consignment of Meat Soup in 1 lb. cans, had been in store in a warehouse in Watford for over two years, and I was asked to report on the condition of the Meat and to state whether it was fit for human consumption.

When the cans were carefully inspected, they were found to be normal in appearance and showed no evidence of internal pressure due to the development of gas. It was noticed, however, that on the outsides there was a

white deposit mainly round the seams, and that the cans were somewhat damaged and dented.

A bacteriological examination of the Soup was made and no evidence of food poisoning organisms could be obtained. The results were, in fact, quite satisfactory and I advised your inspector that the Meat Soup was in a sound condition and quite suitable for human consumption.

Bread.

This, I gather, was submitted as the result of a complaint to the effect that the Bread contained some black foreign bodies. The specimen received consisted of two slices of Bread and, when carefully inspected, these were found to contain some dark patches which could readily be detached from the main slice.

When examined these black patches were found to consist entirely of traces of Sulphide of Iron and the presence of this impurity had, undoubtedly, been the cause of the discoloration.

I expressed the opinion that this metallic contamination had possibly been derived from some portion of the Milling machinery and was, probably, present in the flour before the Bread was baked.

All the samples of Drugs, examined during the year, complied with the requirements of the British Pharmacopoeia.

I was again requested to examine and report upon the general quality of the Ice Cream sold in the Watford District.

The analysis of nineteen samples was carried out and the table on page 20 shows the large variations in their fat content.

I mentioned last year in my Annual Report, that the Ministry of Food had not yet seen their way to lay down any definite standard for the composition of Ice Cream. In November last, the Ministry issued a circular on this subject, P.N.5567, in which they stated that the Food Standards Committee, having considered this matter, were of opinion that in principle a standard was desirable for Ice Cream. They recommended, however, that "action should be deferred, since, because of the scarcity of ingredients, especially Fats and Milk Solids, a satisfactory standard could be prescribed at the present time only at the expense of a reduction of supplies."

It is to be very much hoped that the supply question will improve sufficiently in the near future to justify the Ministry in setting a satisfactory standard for the composition of Ice Cream.

I was requested to examine a sample of Coal collected from the Electricity Generating Station at Watford, and also a specimen of the Grit from the boilers. From the ultimate composition obtained, the Coal appeared to be of the Ortho-Lignitious kind. The Sulphur content was about normal.

In the case of the Grit, the quantity of soluble solids was by no means excessive and it contained only an insignificant trace of Chlorine.

This, I think, completes my summary relating to the various samples taken in the Borough of Watford during the past year and, in submitting my Report, I would like, at the same time, to acknowledge the valuable help and assistance that I have received from your Chief Inspector, Mr. R. V. Jacob, and his Colleagues.

(Signed) C. W. McHugo,  
Public Analyst for the  
Borough of Watford."

Inspections Under Shops Acts, 1912 - 1934.

Routine visits to shops and inspection of records	...	1,041
Visits to shops regarding early closing day	...	202
Evening visits to shops and observations after legal closing hours	...	44
Visits to shops under Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act, 1936	...	121
Number of infringements investigated and appropriate action taken to remedy matters complained of...		173
New shops added to records	...	21
Shops closed down	...	12

Eradication of Insect Pests.

Number of premises dealt with for bugs by the Department:		
Council houses	...	2
Other houses	...	14
Number of Council houses dealt with for bugs by the Housing Department	...	8
Number of premises dealt with for other insect pests by the Health Department	...	19
Total	...	43

Factories Acts, 1937 & 1948.

Part I - Health Provisions.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of -		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	58	36	1	-
Factories not included above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	294	136	3	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
	352	172	4	-



Cases in which defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro-secutions were insti-tuted
	Found	Remedied	Referred -		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (Sec.1)	1	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding (Sec.2)	-	1	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (Sec.3) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (Sec.4) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective draining of floors (Sec.6) ...	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (Sec.7)	-	-	-	-	-
(a) insufficient	-	2	-	-	-
(b) unsuitable or defective	6	13	-	-	-
(c) not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act ...	1	-	1	-	-
Total ...	8	17	2	-	-

NOTE: Several defects recorded during 1948 were not remedied until 1949; this accounts for the defects remedied exceeding the defects found in the above table.

Part II - Safety, Section 34 - Means of Escape in Case of Fire.

Fifteen visits were made to certain factories in connection with the provisions of the above-mentioned Section of the Factories Act by the Chief Sanitary Inspector acting as the Corporation's Authorised Officer.

Part VIII - Outwork. (Sections 110 and 111).

<u>Nature of Work</u>	<u>Number of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1)(c).</u>
Wearing apparel - making etc.	2
Umbrellas, etc. ...	1
Artificial flowers ...	3
Brush making ...	1
Total	<u>7</u>

A circular letter has been sent to the Managers of all the factories within the Borough who may employ outworkers, drawing attention to their statutory obligations under Part VIII of the Act.

Rats and Mice (Destruction Act, 1919).

Three rodent operatives were employed for the greater part of the year, one man left on the 26th November, 1949 and his place has not so far been filled.

Number of complaints received	...	...	343
Number of premises inspected	...	...	1,038
Number of infestations treated	...	...	339
Estimated kill	...	...	7,401
Number of premises rat-proofed	...	...	21

The Council have continued to provide a free treatment of domestic premises the cost of treating business and similar premises is borne by the occupiers.

In February, by mutual arrangement, the work and supervision of rat destruction in the sewers was transferred from the Borough Engineer to this Department. Close co-operation with the Borough Engineer has, however, been maintained and he has loaned additional labour for lifting the manhole covers during the actual treatments.

#### SECTION "F".

##### PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The total number of notifications received during the year was 981 compared with 998 during 1948. After correction in certain instances the total still remained the same.

	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Confirmed</u>
Scarlet Fever	32	31
Diphtheria	-	-
Poliomyelitis	25	25
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	3	3
Cerebrospinal Meningitis	-	-
Pneumonia	16	16
Erysipelas	8	8
Puerperal Pyrexia	31	31
Infective Hepatitis	10	10
Catarrhal Jaundice	7	7
Whooping Cough	64	64
Measles	778	779
Typhoid Fever	-	-
Food Poisoning	7	7
	<u>981</u>	<u>981</u>

##### Scarlet Fever.

There were very few cases throughout most of the year but the incidence began to rise again in the fourth quarter. No definite outbreak occurred nor were any of the cases severe.

##### Diphtheria.

For the third year in succession no case of diphtheria occurred.

## Diphtheria Immunisation.

Since the number of infants attaining the age when immunisation is usually carried out fell by more than 200 (fall in the birth rate) it is very creditable that the number immunised is only 123 below the 1948 figure for children under 5. Furthermore the injections given by General Practitioners are a great help in maintaining the immunity level.

### Completed Course:

Under 5 ...	908	Schick Tests ...	540
Over 5 ...	199	Negative ...	538
		Positive ...	2
Total ...	1,107		

Reinforcing Doses: ... 1,429

### Poliomyelitis.

In spite of a hopeful period during the early summer when it seemed as if the low figure of 1948 might be repeated the Poliomyelitis epidemic started in August. 25 cases were notified during the year and all confirmed. From the beginning very detailed investigation was carried out into contacts, details of diet, housing conditions, etc., etc., with the result that either direct or indirect contact was established in nearly all the cases. After the initial outbreak connected with Cassiobury Day Nursery had died down it suddenly flared up again in the Kingswood area of North Watford, during the 40th week, the Nursery School being involved from the beginning. Both Day Nursery and Nursery School were closed.

The following table gives the weekly notifications and deaths in brackets:-

2nd week	1	41st week	4 (1 died).
22nd week	1	42nd week	1
32nd week	1 (1 died).	43rd week	2 (1 died).
34th week	2 (1 died).	44th week	1 (1 died).
35th week	1	45th week	1
36th week	2	46th week	2
37th week	2 (1 died).	47th week	1
40th week	3		<u>25</u> (6 died).

### Age Groupings (deaths in brackets).

0 - 1	1	2	3	4	5 - 10	11 - 15	16 - 25	26 - 35	36 - 45	over 45
-	4	1	8(1)	-	2	2(1)	2(1)	2(1)	4(2)	-

Almost all the cases were treated initially at the Isolation Hospital and then transferred for further orthopaedic treatment either as inpatients or outpatients according to the residual paralysis. The 6 deaths were due to an overwhelming spread of the infection to the vital centres. One of the most significant factors of this outbreak was the remarkable degree of recovery where the early infection was limited in its spread; this usually depends on the degree of fatigue during the early stage of the illness before paralysis becomes evident.

A survey at the end of the year revealed that of the 19 surviving cases 6 had made a complete recovery, 4 a partial recovery, i.e. receiving outpatient treatment, leaving 9 in hospital.



A great deal of time was spent by all members of the Department in investigating sources of infection, following up contacts but it was all well worth while in the help it gave to the rather bewildered relatives and the worried neighbours. In this, too, the Press were most helpful.

The close contact between the General Practitioners and the Department is indicated in the somewhat unusual feature that all notifications were confirmed - this really means that many other suspects were seen in consultation, sometimes two or three a day during the fifteen weeks whilst cases were prevalent, and investigated often in hospital, but only on confirmation of the diagnosis was official notification sent in.

#### Whooping Cough.

There was a marked fall in the Whooping Cough incidence from the region of 200 notifications per annum to 64.

#### Whooping Cough Immunisation.

The following table records only those children immunised under the Local Health Authority Scheme:-

1st visits	...	565
Revisits	...	1,068
Total injections given	...	1,633

#### Cerebrospinal Meningitis.

For the first time since 1939 no cases were confirmed in the Borough.

#### Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers.

No cases were notified.

#### Smallpox.

At Easter 4 close contacts with known virulent cases were kept under very careful supervision. Fortunately all vaccinations were successful and no cases developed.

#### Vaccination against Smallpox.

It is disturbing to record that infant vaccination has fallen to the region of 20% of live births per annum. Basic herd immunity is a strong foundation on to which can be built the emergency measures required to combat the spread of an imported infection. Steps are being taken to improve the position.

#### Measles.

The unusual feature of three epidemic years is worth some investigation. Notifications of 886, 630 and 778 were recorded but each epidemic although of almost equal severity revealed different features, the 1947 outbreak was carried over from 1946 and did not reach its height (83 notifications) until the 22nd week, the 1948 outbreak rose sharply from the 9th week to its height (76 and 74 notifications) in the 12th and 14th weeks, whereas the 1949 outbreak also rose quickly from a beginning in the 6th week to its height (105 and 80 notifications) in the 10th and 12th weeks. The annual return to normal conditions was reached in the 30th, 22nd and 20th weeks, respectively.

### Scabies.

132 cases and 66 contacts were treated at the Clinic falling off considerably during the second half of the year (44 cases and 14 contacts).

### Tuberculosis.

There were 61 notifications compared with 89 in 1948, 84 in 1947 and 91 in 1946. This fall is due almost entirely to the improvement in the figures for young adult males.

	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15	7	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	3	6	-	1	1	-	-	-
25	3	10	-	-	3	-	-	-
35	8	2	-	1	2	1	-	1
45	5	1	2	-	1	2	-	-
55	2	3	-	-	3	1	-	-
65 and upwards	2	1	-	-	3	1	-	-
Untraced	-	-	-	-	2	3	-	†
	30	26	3	2	15	9	-	2

I submit below a report on the work of the Mass Radiography Unit received from the Organising Secretary to whom I am indebted for his co-operation at all times:-

The Unit moved to the Watford area on 9th April, 1949, and apart from two occasions when the Unit had to leave the district for two or three days to undertake short emergency surveys elsewhere, it worked continuously in the area until 7th July, 1949.

During that period the Unit worked from the undermentioned Centres-

Place	Group Examined	Total No. of Examinees
Cox & Co., Watford By-Pass	Local factory groups	675
Government Training Centre, Sandown Rd.	Local factory groups	2,115
Odhams Ltd.,	Factory employees	1,003
Watford Isolation Hospital	Local factory groups	1,414
London Transport Works, Aldenham	Factory employees and the Wall Hall Training College	531
Small Town Hall, Watford	Factory and shop groups, office employees and the general public	4,362
De Havilland Engine Co., Leavesden	Factory employees	1,049
	Total	<u>11,131</u>

The total number of persons recalled for large films was 427., a percentage of 3.8% of the numbers examined.

Details of results of the large films:-

Nil	...	...	157
No further action necessary			99
Recalled for interview with the			
Unit Doctor	...		171
			427
			<u>427</u>

The disposal of the 171 persons recalled for interview with the Doctor together with a further eight persons who were recalled for interview direct from their miniature film, is given here:-

Nil or no further action necessary	...	75
Referred to their own Doctor with conditions		
not normally dealt with by Chest Clinics	...	10
Referred to Chest Clinics	...	81
Returning to the Unit for another film		
after a certain period	...	10
Failed to attend	...	3
		<u>3</u>
Total	...	179
		<u>179</u>

The persons recalled for interview with Unit Doctors were 1.6% of the total number of examinees, and the total number of cases referred to Chest Clinics or returning to the Unit for a further film were .82% of the total number of examinees.

#### General.

We again endeavoured to work in different parts of the town so that employers were not asked to send their employees prohibitive distances to the Unit. From the outset we again had the full co-operation of the Employer's Association and the Trades Council and I am certain it was this fact that brought about the good response we experienced. Only one large firm in the district declined to co-operate.

During our stay at the small Town Hall one day was allocated to children in their last term at school and some 600 boys and girls attended. At the request of the Medical Officer of Health we arranged to x-ray all one department of a school in which a case of disease had been detected.

Our stay at the small Town Hall produced astonishing results. In six working days over four thousand persons attended for x-ray and almost 50% of these came from the General Public. One thing was very evident - Watford is not an area in which it is possible to arrange Public Sessions by having a restricted basic programme of examinees from industrial firms and permitting the General Public to be superimposed on this same basic programme. In other towns in the north of the County it has always been necessary to have a background of industrial examinees to each Public Session as otherwise there was a big risk of the Session proving a complete waste of time. Watford, however, has proved that the General Public is so keen that special times must be allocated for them alone.



The queuing, particularly at the sessions for women, caused long waits before the examinee was able to get to the Unit, and it was very worrying as we realised that intermingled with the General Public were persons sent by their employers. After the first day the British Red Cross Society kindly arranged for some of their members to attend and they did invaluable work in maintaining a steady movement of the crowd.

The small Town Hall was an admirable site for the work of the Unit but the great drawback was the condition on which we took the Hall, and that was to leave the Hall clear every teatime. This necessitated moving everything, screens, tables, notices, records etc. in addition to the heavy x-ray equipment, to a place behind the stage, every evening and moving the lot back again in the morning. Although the Town Hall staff helped us with this moving it was apparent that on future occasions the Unit must have full-time possession of any premises in which we work.

#### Venereal Disease.

The arrangements for treatment remain the same.

#### Cancer.

15½ deaths took place in 1949 compared with 133 in 1948, 143 in 1947 and 120 in 1946.

#### Watford Isolation Hospital.

The Medical Superintendent has supplied the following details of admissions and discharges during the year 1949.

#### Patients in Hospital on January 1st, 1949 (excluding Tuberculosis).

Scarlet Fever	...	5	Strep. Carriers	...	13	
Other diseases	...	1	Cerebrospinal			
			Meningitis	...	1	
					20	20

#### Patients admitted to Hospital during 1949.

Scarlet Fever	...	59	Whooping Cough	...	15	
Diphtheria	...	7	Polio-myelitis	...	48	
Cerebrospinal			Streptococcal			
Meningitis	...	5	Carriers	...	13	
Measles	...	35	Other causes	...	50	
					232	232
Patients treated during 1949 -						252
						<u>252</u>

#### Patients in Hospital on 31st December, 1949.

Scarlet Fever	...	5	Other causes	...	5	
Polio-myelitis	...	2			12	12

#### The following deaths occurred in Hospital.

Measles	...	1	Other diseases	...	3	
Polio-myelitis	...	8			12	12
- 34 - Carried forward ...						24



Brought forward ... 24

Patients Discharged from Hospital.

Scarlet Fever ...	51	Streptococcal	
Cerebrospinal		Carriers ...	22
Meningitis ...	3	Poliomyelitis ...	28
Measles ...	35	Other causes ...	<u>73</u>
Whooping Cough ...	16		228
			<u>228</u>
		Total ...	<u>252</u>

31 cases of Tuberculosis were admitted and 30 discharged. 7 deaths occurred.

